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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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A 10c an hour wage cut, firing of five FTA members, discrimination against Negro workers and a general management policy of pushing people around put these members of FTA Local 194, Chicago, on strike at Ready Foods. (*See story page 5*)

Tired Of Being Planter Suckers

Robbie Mae Riddick, president of Local 26 in Suffolk, Va., came back from the grocery store the other day all steamed up.

"Any poor sucker at Planter's who isn't ready to put up a real fight for some big wage increases must have stomach trouble, and can't eat anyhow," she said.

"The way prices are going now, there are going to be some people who never thought of such a thing, eating out of garbage cans before the end of the year, unless we squeeze some real wages out of the company—and I don't mean any fice or 10c an hour.

"How can anybody expect people to live on $19 or $20 a week when even sweet potatoes have gone up to 55c for six pounds? And veal cutlets have just gone up another five cents a pound. Even rice and blackeyed peas cost 25c a pound—and that is the commonest -food you can get," said Sister Riddick.

She wound up with this food for thought: "No one monkey stops the show, but a few non-union monkeys who fight the union, instead of sticking together to back the fight for higher wages, can certainly make hard times for themselves and the rest of us."

Local 26 is currently conducting a drive to organize the unorganized, thus strengthening negotiations for a new contract at the Planters Peanut Co.

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You're Next!— Or, Trimming The Wagner Act

This is a story that has a plot—not a mystery plot, but a plot that's directly aimed at you, your union, your wages and your living standards.

The plot is this: enemies of labor in Congress want to amend the Wagner Act to deprive close to 500,000 workers of the right to organize and bargain collectively with their employers in a union of their own choice.

Now there's nothing especially new in the desire of Labor's enemies to tear the heart out of the Wagner Act. They've been wishing they could do it—and trying to do it—for the past 10 years.

Each time they've tried to do it openly, they've failed. The united strength of labor, led by CIO, has pushed them back. Now they've got a new scheme, a back-door approach that may work—unless we all get on the job to block it. This is the pitch:

This week, and for the next three or four weeks, an attempt will be made in Congress to hang a "rider" onto the appropriation bill that provides money to the Natl. Labor Relations Board for administering the Act for the coming year.

The rider will say in effect: "no part of these NLRB funds shall be used in cases involving, in whole or in part, agricultural workers as defined by the Social Security Act."

This means that agricultural workers—"as defined by the Social Security Act"—will no longer have the protection of the Wagner Act when they try to organize and bargain for higher wages and better conditions.

The trick is in the definition, and in the phrase "in whole or in part."

As defined by the Social Security Act, "agricultural workers" means much more than farm workers. The definition includes:

Workers in fruit and vegetable packing houses, dried fruit processing workers, workers in cotton gins, nurseries, etc. Altogether, about 500,000 workers who now are protected will have that protection removed.

This means no more NLRB elections; no more legal cases against company union; no more legal cases for reinstatement of fired workers.

If we let Congress get away with this, it means no more Wagner Act. If they can jerk the rug out from under 500,000 workers this time, what's to prevent them from making it a million, two million, 10 million later on?

Nothing but labor's united protest. The rider comes up first in the House, through the House Appropriations Committee, next in the Senate.

Wire your Congressman and two Senators now. Tell them—no rider, no tricks on the Wagner Act!

Welcome back from the FTA school at Monteagle, Tenn., is Spencer Long, steward of Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N. C. Local 22 also sent Elizabeth McBride and Jimmy Barnett. All three profited from the school, say they wish all stewards could attend them to learn the valuable lessons in trade unionism they offer.

from CIO News

Stop This Raid

Here are the detailed steps reactionary Congressmen are planning in their latest attempt to wreck the Wagner Act.

Objective of the plot is to fasten a trick clause or "rider" on the Natl. Labor Relations Board appropriation bill shutting 500,000 food processing and packing workers out of the benefits of the Wagner Act.

1. A group of anti-labor Congressmen, sparked by big grower interests, is offering the rider to the House Appropriations Committee.

2. If the Committee recommends the rider, the bill goes to the House floor for a vote.

3. If the Committee rejects the rider, it will be offered from the floor as an amendment.

4. Following House action, the bill, with or without rider goes to the Senate. After that, to President Truman for signature or veto.

It is very unlikely that Truman will veto the bill if it has the rider, since a veto cuts the NLRB off without funds to operate.

First; get wires into all our Congressmen, especially if they are on the Appropriations Committee. Tell them: no monkeying with the Wagner Act, no trick riders on NLRB funds.

Second; get all fellow union members and other progressive people in your community to see the issue as an attack on all workers, and to protest to Congress.

Point out to them—and to your Congressman—that the workers involved aren't farm workers. They're workers in food packing and processing industries, who now have rights under the Wagner Act and should be allowed to keep them.

Third; get wires and letters to the Senators, who will be getting the issue in about two or three weeks.

Special Target

There's a vicious and growing habit among Congressional tories of singling out the food processing industry for special discrimination in laws affecting wages and working conditions.

The theory seems to be that so-called "agricultural" workers can be attacked in special riders, trick clauses in bills and general exemption from beneficial laws other workers enjoy, without anyone to say them nay.

Look at the recent record—exemption of food processing workers from [illegible] the 65c bill; special overtime exemptions for employers under the present act; exemption from social security; and now the latest Wagner Act rider threat.

This is only part of the story. Down through years of legislation, "agricultural" workers have been singled out for especially shoddy treatment. Actually, of course, much more than simply "agricultural" workers are affected.

In fact, industrial workers are inevitably affected by such discrimination—whether or not they are immediately affected by a social security definition of "agricultural" or by a rider cutting them off from benefits of the Wagner Act.

Not only are workers under FTA-CIO jurisdiction affected, but eventually all workers—if the trend is allowed to continue.

National CIO is aware of this dangerous trend. In warning letters this week, CIO has warned all its members that discrimination against one group means discrimination against all.

Congressmen have got to learn that a legislative attack on one section of the labor movement is an attack on all the labor movement. It's up to us, together with the rest of the CIO, to teach them this elementary lesson.

This is a job for political action, on a sustained, community basis. It means organization of all unions and all progressives to fight this vicious singling out of food processing workers, and an end to letting ourselves be the special target of reactionary attacks.

And it means getting out the voters to register NOW, to vote next November.

FROM WASHINGTON

South On The Move

By ELIZABETH SASUSLY, Washington Representative

The South is on the move politically. Primaries in Alabama and Florida prove that when the voters are given half a chance to choose a decent candidate and when campaigns are well organized, the progressive candidate will win.

When I was in Birmingham a couple of weeks before the primary, you would never have thought, to read the papers, that Big Jim Folsom, PAC-backed candidate for Governor, had a chance. Even our own CIO people didn't figure he would come out better than second in a three-way race. But when the votes were counted, Folsom, lone Alabama holdout for Wallace in the 1944 Democratic national convention, headed the list.

Alabama voters also saved the people of the U.S. from another dose of Joe Starnes who was as bad as Dies on the old unAmerican Committee. Starnes was licked by Rep. Albert Rains two years ago and when he tried to make a comeback, Rains beat him again.

There is a lesson to be learned from what happened in another Alabama race to Luther Patrick, one of the better Southern congressmen. Patrick was sure he could get in without any trouble and didn't bother to campaign until a few days before the primary. Result: he just managed to squeak through second and faces a runoff against Lurie Battle, a war veteran.

In Florida, one of the worst members of the House, vigilante Joe Cannon of Miami, was defeated. FTA knows Cannon as the man who fought for importation of Bahaman workers to beat wages down in Florida. His successor, George Smathers, was backed by Sen. Pepper and PAC.

So we can chalk up a number of gains in the South and dig into the Southern primaries which are yet to come with confidence in what the people of the South can do.

One of the most important races for FTA is coming up in Winston Salem, N.C. May 25 when Rep. Folger defends his seat against one Chatham, a Roosevelt hater from way back, member of the Liberty League. Negro workers are registering in large numbers under FTA Local 22 leadership and they will vote.

In other Southern states, like South Carolina, the illegal white primary has yet to be tested and thrown out in the courts, as it was in Texas and Georgia, before the working people, Negro and white, will have a chance to show their united strength.

FTA locals in the South are conducting registration and poll-tax payment drives and they are working to test the white primaries where this must be done. Local 26 in Suffolk, Va., Local 15 in Charleston, S.C. and Local 19 in Memphis, Tenn. have been very active in states where it is not easy to engage in political activity.

It is time to look at what is going on in Congress now and realize that unless we fight every inch of the way to keep the good men we have and elect more we will face a Congress organized to completely smash the labor movement and finish off democracy in the USA.

Every FTA local knows what needs to be done. The time to do it is NOW.

Organize a PAC committee in every local and affiliate with your state and city CIO council.

Plan your registration campaign immediately.

Get going on the dollar drive so PAC and YOUR LOCAL will have the money to make the wheels go round.

Tell Congress

Case Bill HR 4908.

The worst anti-labor bill yet; has a special angle (Aiken amendment) which would make striking cannery, packingshed and other food workers subject to $2,000 fine and one year in jail. House version has amendment tacking social security definition of agricultural labor on NLRA.

Keep the *wires* going to Senators if you don't want the bosses to wreck the Wagner Act, repeal the Norris-LaGuardia Act and bust *your* strike. Tell Senators to take up the anti-poll tax bill (HR 7) instead.

Rider to NLRB appropriations.

To make sure packingshed workers, etc., do *not* have benefits of Wagner Act, plot is under way to put rider on NLRB funds prohibiting board from handling cases involving agricultural workers, as defined above.

Wire your Congressman to oppose. Rouse the CIO in your area and others to send more wires.

65c wage S 1349.

House Labor Committee now considering bill. Great danger that exemptions in Wage-Hour Act affecting food processing workers will be left in. Worse may be added.

Write your Representative: 65-75 cents with *no exemptions for food processing workers.*

(Address Senators, Senate Office Bldg., Representatives, House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.)

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America—CIO

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Hit Phoney AFL Cannery Contract

New attempts by the cannery bosses in the California Processors and Growers, Inc., to make a phoney contract with their AFL Teamster stooges stand up were denounced by FTA President Donald Henderson in a statement issued in San Francisco this week.

Describing this latest move to bamboozle the workers, Henderson analyzed the contract in these terms:

"Facts in the case are simple. The gains are welcome—as far as they go. And as far as they go, they are directly the result of the fight made by FTA-CIO since it entered the cannery field less than a year ago.

"They don't go far enough—not nearly. And cannery workers won't get the kind of benefits they can win until FTA is certified as the sole bargaining agent in the field, which we feel sure will happen after the industry-wide election the NLRB is to hold next August or September.

"Finally, the Teamster-CP&G 'contract' is illegal and has no real status. The relationship between CP&G and their Teamsters stooges since March 30 has been and still is illegal.

"But there are big jokers in the 'contract,' too, that will have to be remedied when FTA becomes bargaining representative for the cannery workers. The big jokers are these:

"The boost of 8½c in hourly and 10% in piece rates apparently includes no raise in the minimum piece rate guarantee of 70c hourly for piece rate workers who make up the bulk of cannery work, especially among women who constitute the majority. Skilled women may continue to get as little as 70c for working under conditions that should pay at least 25c or 30c over that.

"The pernicious and unnecessarily complicated makeup system of computing piece rate pay per unit is still retained in effect. Under it the companies will continue to short-change the workers.

"Nothing is done to revise upward the 'bracket' classifications of skilled cannery workers, most of whom are employed year-round. They are way below rates paid for similar skills in other industries in California.

"Provision of time and a half after eight hours daily sounds good, but men workers on time rates were getting it before and it means no gain for women who are mostly on piece rates.

"Time and a half after 40 hours weekly is limited to a list of 'non-perishable' fruits and vegetables which are relatively minor in canning operations. The big operations — apricots, peaches, tomatoes, etc.—will pay time and a half only after 48 hours work in a week.

"Teamsters claim they have a 'closed shop' clause. They have nothing of the sort. Closed shop means management agrees both to hire in the first place only union members or workers who become union members AND to fire any worker if he quits being a union member in good standing.

"CP&G is too slick to give even its Teamster pals such an assurance in writing, because that would set a precedent they'll have to follow later when FTA has won exclusive bargaining rights and Teamsters are out of the picture. This CP&G doesn't want to do.

"Most important from the viewpoint of some 60,000 cannery workers is the fact that the Teamsters' bogus contract gives no method for enforcing the gains it is supposed to assure. Only a genuine union of cannery workers with a shop steward system and rank and file control, will make any contract mean anything. This applies even to a legal contract, which this one is not.

"We are [illegible] reminding all cannery workers of the following facts:

"The companies have no right, either legally or in the new 'contract' they have cooked up, to deduct Teamster dues from paychecks without workers' specific authorization requesting that they do so, or to continue such deduction after the worker has revoked a previous authorization.

"The companies have no right in law nor on the 'contract' piece of paper to fire a worker who has been but no longer is a teamster in good standing.

FTA Organizer Elsie Smith (standing) tells guests at an Oakland, Calif. lunch in her honor that FTA's cannery case in California "will decide whether we retain rights won in the Wagner Act." Next to her are FTA Representative Claudia Williams; Regional Director Luisa Moreno and Oakland CIO head Paul Schlipf. Guests included leading Oakland ministers, shown in both pictures, and (bottom right), Father Chas. Philipps.

FTA cannery workers picket Libby-plant at Sacramento, Cal., fighting a Teamster-employer lockout.

Pepper Lashes Senate Labor Haters

One of the few Senate voices against the torrent of abuse of organized labor is that of Senator Claude A. Pepper (D. Fla.). When almost every other Senator, including such Administration leaders as Lucas (D. Ill.) and Barkley D. Ky.) either joined in the witch-hunt or kept silent, Pepper spoke up in militant defense of unions and sharp criticism of their enemies.

FTA News here reprints excerpts from Senator Pepper's speech attacking the anti-labor Case bill and defending unions:

What they are trying to do, Mr. President, is to undermine and emasculate the power of the labor unions of this country, because they have come to have an authority in improving the working conditions of working man and women which management has come to wish to deny or to limit.

No, Mr. President, the pending amendment is not really aimed at the protection of the employes against the misuse of a health fund.

The purpose of it is to emasculate the power of labor unions in the United States of America, because there are some Senators, as there are some employers, who want the workingman to come, not as a dignified equal to demand his due, not as an American to insist upon his rights, not as a citizen of the United States to [illegible]y to them, " I want what the Bible says I am entitled to—the laborer's hire."

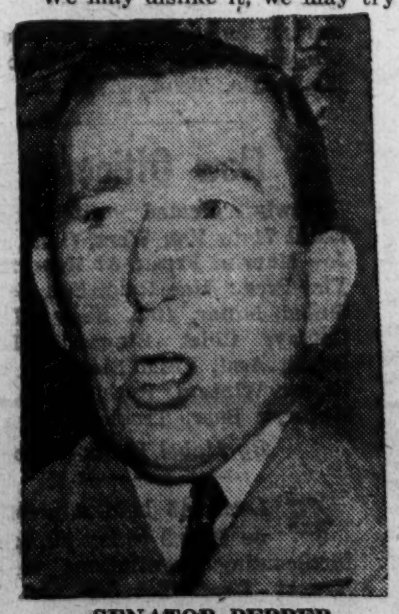
"Some Senators . . ."

No, Mr. President, some Senators and some employers and some trade associations would really prefer that he come groveling like a slave upon his hands and knees to take the pittance he can get from the employers' beneficence.

They want him to come like a ragged Lazarus, Mr. President, to the employers' Dives' table and be satisfied with the miserable crumbs that he may get.

I tell you, Mr. President, that, whatever may be the result of the action upon this particular measure, the American workingman, and, I say, thank God for the American workingwonman who has made such a magnificent contribution to the output which has helped us to win our great victories, cannot be strangled.

Labor is but the representation of that democracy which all over the world is on the march. We may dislike it, we may try to put our fists in the faces of laboring men and women, we may try to hurl them back down the ladder up which they are trying to climb; we may kick them as they come demanding their justice; but believe me, Mr. President, theirs is a power which they will not give up, because when they finally realize what is the issue involved in this and other characteristic legislation, they will assert their might at the polls in no unmistakable way.



SENATOR PEPPER

Child Labor

How long did the little boys and girls of the South have to work in the cotton mills? I used to see them in some of the cotton mills in the Southern States, with their little sallow faces, pallid, shrunken human beings coming out of the cotton mills, with lint in their eyes and in their hair and in their souls.

Yet anyone who tried to better their working conditions was an agitator, and many times those who tried to organize those workers were driven out of their quarters by deputy sheriffs and policemen, who were on the company pay roll, beating them over the head or applying to them some other kind of coercive force.

Workers' Rights

Talk about protecting constitutional rights. Very well, protect the constitutional rights of a labor organizer to go into a community and call a public meeting of workers and address them about the advantages of unionization, and see to it that he is not interfered with by the local police or the sheriff or some hired representative of management who does not want the worker to exercise the right of organization.

But when it comes to labor, they have no reluctance about becoming totalitarian. They are perfectly willing to lay the heavy hand of legislation upon the back of the workingman, Mr. President. They are perfectly willing to interfere with his freedom, and then claim the right to be called liberals.

Joint Council of Quaker Oats locals shown meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 3-5. Around the table are representatives of Local 125, St. Joseph, Mo.; 120, Akron, Ohio; and 110, Cedar Rapids. Also present were Vice-Pres. Armando Valdes and Organizer Jack Sparks. The Council adopted a constitution and by-laws and made plans to present a master contract to Quaker Oats. Hugh Moneypenny, 120, was elected chairman; James Walsh, 125, first vice-president; and Wesley Kopecky, 110, second vice-president.

By Agnes Dvorak, Reporter

Consolidated Cigar Joint Contract Sets New Pace

By Lewis Bentzley, Regional Director, Middle Atlantic Area

The first step in the establishment of an industry-wide contract for the tobacco industry in the Middle Atlantic Area was made when Locals 80 and 638 jointly negotiated a new contract covering Consolidated Cigar plants in Camden, N. J., and Lancaster, Pa.

An across the board wage increase, ranging from 12c to 22½c an hour was won for both plants, including down payment of 7½c an hour received since V-J Day.

All the wage terms won in the American Tobacco strike settlement were met in the Consolidated contract, including fringe issues such as call-in pay, etc. In addition, the Consolidated contract expiration date was set at April 9, 1947, the same date as the American Tobacco agreement.

In the past there had been agreement between the union, and the Consolidated, Penn State, Siegel, and Frieder cigar plants for an industry-wide contract for the area. However, due to the refusal of the American Tobacco Co. to be part of the negotiations, the agreement was never carried out.

The regional leadership of the Middle Atlantic Area views the joint negotiations as Consolidated as a new basis for approaching the other cigar companies for an industry-wide contract when the present contract expires in 1947.

At the Lancaster plant the minimum in the stripping department was raised to 65c an hour. The bull gang won increases up to 15c an hour, while a 15c increase for handymen brought the minimum rate for them up to 77½c an hour.

Workers at the Camden plant won adjustments in the mechanical and maintainence departments through raises up 22½c an hour.

Although the contracts at the two plants vary slightly, this is the first time they had joint negotiations for the two plants.

Jake Triplett—Local 19's One-Man FTA Drive

By Karl Korstad, Bus. Agt., Local 19

Jake Triplett, Local 19 Shop Steward at the Quaker Oats plant, single-handedly organized the last large feed mill in Memphis, Tenn., not under contract with FTA. In one week he signed up a majority of the workers at the Allied Feed Mills.

When asked how he did the job, Triplett told how he started off by inviting a number of the Allied Feed Mill workers to his house on a Sunday afternoon. That day, 14 workers signed up and paid their two dollar initiation fee.

The next Sunday, 38 others came with him to the union hall. Before they left, they, too, had signed up. And the next morning a letter of notification was on its way to company officials.

Commended by the Local 19 executive board for his fine job, Triplett responded, "It cost me some time and a few dollars, but I figure that somebody must have spent something to get us organized at our plant."

What The Teamsters And Bosses Fear Most

The thing the Teamsters and the California cannery bosses fear most is the fact that the rank and file workers want FTA-CIO and are fighting for it, John Tisa, FTA national organization director, told FTA News this week.

"Johnny" was in national headquarters a few days, between flying trips to the west coast where he has been helping direct the drive.

"Nothing dampens the spirit of those cannery workers," he told the News. "They're determined to have their own union. They want FTA-CIO and they're putting up a fight to get it.

"For nine years they've been pushed around by the AFL Teamsters, and they're sick and tired of it. Their fight now is aimed at ruling out backdoor agreements, sellouts, discrimination and the dictatorial rule of a combination of AFL piecards and the employers.

"FTA-CIO will win because the workers want CIO. That's the one thing the Teamsters and the California Packers and Growers fear most. That's the factor that will bring victory in the election."

Assessment Adopted By Local 19

At its recent membership meeting on May 13, Local 19, Memphis, Tenn., passed, with only one dissenting vote, a three dollar assessment for all members to raise money for FTA's part in the coming Southern organizing drive. The resolution was presented by unanimous recommendation of the local's executive board, according to Bus. Agt. Karl Korstad.

A referendum vote for a general three dollar assessment to be levied on the entire national membership for organizing funds was also proposed to the International.

Speaking in behalf of the resolution, Pres. John Mack Dyson said, "In addition to consolidating in the plants we now have organized, and in addition to intensifying our educational and political action programs, no other phase of our activity is as important as organizing the unorganized." Dyson presented a report on the recent FTA Southern Organizers meeting held at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn., April 28.

New Officers

Newly elected officers for Local 71 in Van Wert, Ohio, are: Joe Marvin, Pres.; Al Hoverman, Vice-Pres.; Mae Reid, Fin. Sec'y; Mabel Miller, Rec. Sec'y; Della Conlay, Chief Steward; Ruth Davis, Asst. Chief Steward; and Elmer Winters, Ruth Davis and Kathryn Baer, Trustees.

By Mabel Walls, Reporter

45 Local 45 held a meeting on May 9 to lay plans for forthcoming negotiations at the Export Leaf Tobacco Co., in Richmond, Va., according to Bus. Agt. Max Sussman.

New Local Averts Strike At Dairy

A strike threatened by Local 37 members at the Jersey Creamery Division of the Beatrice Creamery Co. in Newcastle, Ind., forestalled company attempts to avoid union recognition. In the face of the solidarity of the workers, the company was forced to agree to an NLRB cnducted card check to be held this week.

Foremost in the demands of the local, according to Regional Director Jack Fox, increases for the milk drivers and plant workers, and a union shop. Members of the committee are Dale Sweigart, Pres.; Forrest Stoots, Fin. Sec'y; Thomas Akers, Harry Cashdollar, Charley Rose and Ralph Connerly —all charter members of the local.

Charter New Local At Stokeley Foods

The announcement of the chartering of Local 36 at the Stokeley Foods plant, in Greenwood, Ind., has raised the hopes of the 300 workers in the plant of bringing their low wages into line with the gains of FTA in that region.

Since the wages at present are 45c and 50c an hour, with 75c an hour for highly skilled men, the local is preparing to fight for substantial wage increases.

Officers of the new local are: Erschel Lewis, Pres.; and Hazel Hacker, Fin. Secy. Some of the members active in forming the local were Edith Reid, Sam Martin, John Jenkins, Gladys Anthony, Florence Sego, Flo Hensley, Mallie Church and John L. Ross.

The workers process peas, tomatoes, lima beans, ketchup and other products under the brand name "Stokeley's Finest."

Protest Wins Beef

A two-and-a-half hour demonstration staged by Local 67 outside the Southern Biscuit plant in Richmond, Va., on May 3, finally brought the company to settle the grievances of the workers in the icing department.

Following this show of unity by all the 350 workers, the company met with the grievances committee composed of Adele Ellis, Chief Steward; Stewards Robert Lodge and Thelma Douglas, and Bus. Agt. Max Sussman, and a satisfactory agreement was reached.

The grievances resulted from the forelady's abuses to the workers in the department. Now the workers have every assurance that grievances will be handled promptly.

Pledge To Enforce 65c State Minimum

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Seattle, Wash.—Establishment of a 65c an hour minimum wage and a 40-hour week for women workers in the State of Washington received the acclaim of Local 7-2.

In a resolution adopted by the local, the members called on the State Department of Labor and Industries to vigorously enforce the order. The Local pledged to oppose "any intimidation, discrimination, or discharges by employers for the purpose of evading the wage-hour regulations."

The resolution pointed out that the only guarantee of enforcement of any law of this kind is [illegible] organized workers to protect labors rights.

Mid West School Set For June 9-15

School bells are ringing again —this time for FTA midwest locals. The FTA Leadership Training School for mid-west locals will be held the week of June 9-15 at the Bowen Ciuntry Club in Waukegan, Ill.

"Time is short. School attendance should be planned immediately so that there will be time to pick the best people and to produce finances," said Educational Director Connie Anderson in a letter to all mid-west locals. She announced that school registrations are due by June 3.

The school will be located 45 miles north of Chicago in a green country club setting with a swimming pool. Delegates must be there for supper on Sunday June 9.

Classes will meet for 5½ hours each day and take up such subjects as union building; facts about FTA and CIO; political action; wages and profits; duties of a shop steward, etc. Discussions will be led by FTA officers and guest teachers.

Board, room and school fees for the week total $26 per person. Delegates should be elected by the locals from among the active union members.

LOCAL 15 DANCE

15 Local 15's dance April 30 drew the cops to the Charleston, S. C., hall, but they had to go away again without being allowed to make trouble. The band kept on playing and the couples kept on dancing and finally the police, after sniffing around like hungry dogs for a few minutes left. Among those responsible for the success of the dance were S. B. Graham, vice-president of Local 15, Corine Cokeley, Delphine Brown, John Cummings and the shop stewards.

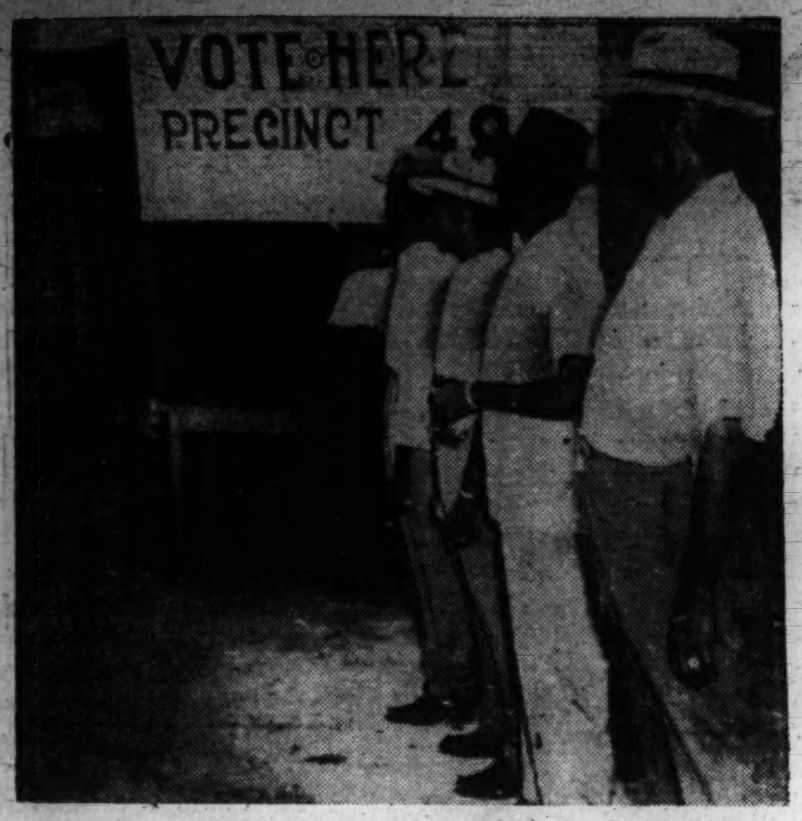
NEW LOCAL

An FTA charter was issued on May 14 to Local 42 in Miami, Florida. The new local includes year-round workers at the Miami Bottled Gas Co., which already has a closed shop contract, and the Linde Air Products Co., as well as workers in several other plants in the area. An election has been ordered by the NLRB at the Linde Air Products plant.

Red Cross Policies Biased, CIO Charge

New York, N. Y.—Charging that labor is not permitted a share in the policies and program of the Red Cross, the National CIO Community Services Committee refused to renew its fund-raising agreement with the Red Cross on April 30.

"Our efforts to create a more wholesome understanding between Red Cross chapters and local labor groups were discouraged at every turn," CCS Natl. Chairman Irving Abramson said.



Voting for the first time in primaries in the South, these Negro workers helped assure return of several progressives to Congress in the November elections. CIO and FTA organization in the South has reactionary politicos scared senseless.

(see *"from Washington"* page 2.)

Local 26 Gets FTA Okay To Strike At Planters

By John C. Hunt, Bus. Agt.

Unanimously rejecting the Planters Nut and Chocolate Co. offer of eight and 10c an hour increases, Local 26 this week requested and received authorization from the international to strike the plant in Suffolk, Va.

"The Planters Nut and Chocolate Co., by refusing to grant a substantial wage increase, has indicated to us that they intend to maintain their substandard wage structure and continue to violate all standards of decent human existence for their workers," Int. Sec'y-Treas. Harold J. Lane wired to the local.

"The employes of the company have endured considerable hardship as a result of the starvation wages paid ever since the company started business in Suffolk. We are certain that the overwhelmingly majority of American labor, when they are acquainted with the facts in this situation, will find it very repulsive to even look at Mr. Peanut," Lane said.

"We are certain that not only the members of organized labor but the general public will find it impossible to purchase any articles manufactured by such a company."

Pledging "the full and complete support of the International," Lane authorized the local to use economic strength to win their just demands, in accordance with the International Constitution, Article 14, Section 1.

"We are fully aware of the very favorable position of the company financially to meet the wage demands of the workers without any hardship whatsoever," he said.

The international also pledged to mobilize the support of organized labor and the public to help win the struggle.

Negotiations on the Union's demand for a 25c an hour increase came to a deadlock on May 10. The company's offer of eight and 10c was rejected at a special membership meeting on the grounds that such increases would hardly be a drop in the bucket compared with the present cost of living, Bus. Agt. John Hunt disclosed. Present wages for the majority of the workers at the plant are 48 and 55c an hour.

The rejection followed scores of comments from the floor such as: "We can't live on what we're getting now. We're living from hand to mouth. I'm willing to strike any time, and stay out as long as necessary."

Another worker said "I've spent 21 years at Planters, slaving and pinching pennies, and I'm worse off now than when I started. That shows how much they think of us. I don't even get as much as the Planters workers in San Francisco." (Minimum in SF is around 80c.)

"I'm not going to take any 10c," was the concensus of opinion of the members.

In a message directed to the employees laid off during the slack season, Hunt reminded them that "this is your fight too."

Calling on them to "pitch in and fight," Hunt said "Every worker who has been laid off has just as great an interest in seeing wages raised at Planters as anyone else. Wages won by the Union will be your wages too when you go back to work. So you should not just sit by on the sidelines.

"Come to Union meetings, take part in all the plans, and when it becomes necessary to shut the plant down, get out on the picket line with the rest. Remember, any scab who tries to go in is scabbing on you too."

39% Raise In Frisco

By Mario Hermoso, Reporter

San Francisco, Calif. — Wage increases of almost 39% were gained by the workers at 7 San Francisco tamale and tortilla plants and grocery firms, as the result of contracts signed by Local 7. The plants covered by the contract are Conha, Trio Tamale, Mi Rancho, La Mexicana, La Nacional, La Central and Sanchez.

Minimum wages were raised from 85c to $1.10 an hour for men, and from 65c to 90c an hour for women. All plants, except Conha and Trio, guarantee 85c an hour for hand tortilla workers, or a piece rate of 12c per dozen tortillas.

Other features of the new contracts include retroactivity; 48 hours' vacation with pay for 40 weeks' work a year; check-off and a no-discrimination clause. Time-and-a-half pay will be paid for work in excess of 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week, as well as for 10 holidays.

The new contract established a 10-minute rest period every two hours for the workers, with no deduction in pay.

Members of the Local 7 Negotiating Committee are Francisca Taboada, Lupe Salinas and Pete Gutierrez. They were assisted by Local 7 Business Agent Pablo Valdez.

'They Treat Us Too Much Like Customers'

by John Sloan

FTA wo kers at the Ready Foods plant in Chicago don't want to be treated like the customers—the company makes dog food—and they showed it in a two week strike just halted temporarily by the union pending a Natl. Labor Relations Board election.

"They treat us just like dogs," the workers said before they walked out May 3, following discharge of five members of the organizing committee, Seth Byrd, Roy Love, Jame Massey, Odell Tynes and James Hicks, four of whom are veterans. Before this the company tried to scare them out of organizing the plant by cutting their wages 10c an hour.

In answer to this attempt to bust the union, FTA filed unfair labor charges with the NLRB at the same time it filed for an election.

Organization began at the plant in April when 45 workers joined the union in two weeks. Getting wind of this, the bosses started going around the plant questioning and intimidating the workers.

Following discharge of the organizing committee, and the company's absolute refusal to meet and settle the grievance, the workers decided to strike.

During the first two days six scabs: Helen Dzreizic, Mary Evanaski, Sopl Valaque, Frieda Dunnerma, Estella Jungman and Al McKay were escorted through the picket line by six policemen.

The scabs were shamed by a picket line with banners which followed them all the way home. Finally, the scorn of the neighborhood caused the scabs to stay home altogether.

Some of the AFL truck drivers also refused to respect the FTA picket line, and appeals to the AFL district council and business agents got no response.

When the truck drivers for the third time attempted to pass the picket line, the enraged pickets grabbed them by their necks and gave them a good scare.

With scabs out and the trucks stopped, six bosses remained in the plant to do their own scabbing, loading box cars and doing the janitor's work.

Win 20-34c Raises And More Since V-J Day

By George DeGroat, Local 178 President

The best contract in its history has just been negotiated by Local 178, assisted by Int. Org. C. K. Armstrong, for the workers at Cherry Growers Inc., Traverse City, Mich.

Under the new contract a minimum hiring rate of 75c was established. Other wage adjustments brought an additional five cents an hour increase for employes of more than one year. And classifications of jobs at five cents steps above the minimum brought wages for new workers as high as $1.05. The new classifications were based on "rate for the job," thereby eliminating classifications of "women work" entirely.

Thus, in the period since V-J Day, Cherry Growers workers have totalled increases ranging from 20c to 34c an hour, or an average 25c an hour increase.

Maintenance of membership, which until recent negotiations had been flatly refused by the company, was also won.

The new vacation schedule is paid at the rate of two percent of earnings for one year workers, and four percent for 5-year workers. All employes who work over 26 weeks are eligible for vacations.

Other model conditions in the agreement, already in effect in the last contract, are a 40-hour week, night differential, time-of-service increases in pay, and paid sick leave.

Union membership among the workers remains 100 percent after four years of constant union gains in the plant. In 1942, when the plant was organized, women received 30c an hour and men from 40 to 55c an hour. There were no vacations, no paid sick leave, etc., and the plant took full advantage of exemptions from overtime pay. Workers were hired, fired or laid off on the basis of favoritism. Now all this is changed.

Local 178 members take pride in the fact that all the gains they've won have been won under open shop conditions in a community which has been openly hostile to organized labor.

Wis. Locals Win Raises

A 10c hourly increase negotiated by Local 24, for the Armour workers in Bloomer, Wis., was announced this week by Harry Virgil, Intl. Rep. Five cents of this increase is retroactive to Jan 26, and the other half to April 21.

Other Wisconsin settlements reported by Virgil provide for a raise in the minimum rate to 65c from the present 52½c for the Tolibia Cheese workers, organized in Local 341, at Fond du Lac, with a corresponding cut in hours of 54 to 48.

In Milwaukee, a five cent hourly increase retroactive to Sept. 1, 1945 was obtained for the building service employees at the Loyalty Building, of Local 107, while Local 191, at the Catholic cemetery closed its contract with a 17c hourly raise.

FTA has filed for an NLRB election at the Larson Co., one of the largest canneries in the state. A company attempt to forestall organization by handing out a 10c an hour increase backfired and raised the number of workers signed up with the CIO to 75%.

Apply For Charter

Application for charter has been received by FTA from a local set up by the workers at the Glover Creamery Co. and the Roanoke, Va. The plants which employ approximately 160 workers are the first organized in this city by the FTA Tri-State Regional Council.

Petitions for an election at both plants have already been filed with the NLRB, according to Regional Director Frank Green.

FTA Demands U.S. People Control Atomic Energy

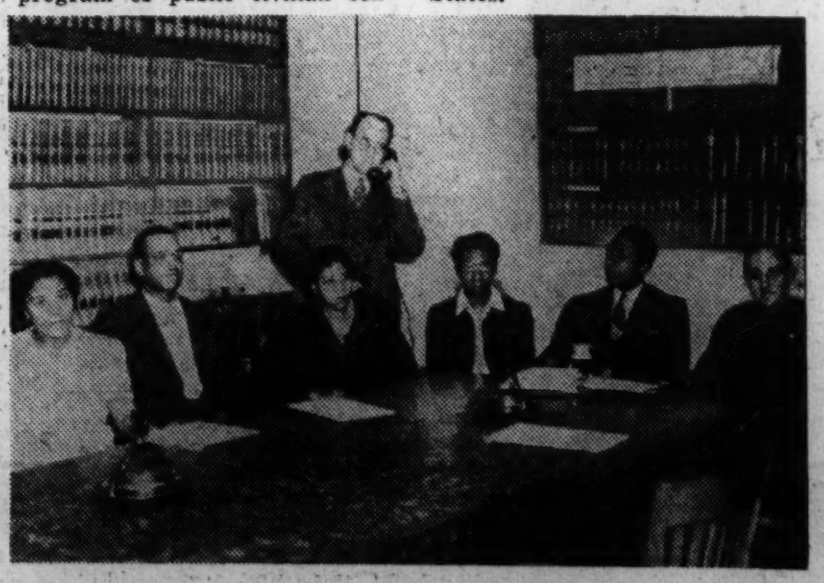
"We must be on our guard against attempts of the military authorities to control the development of atomic energy and turn it to destructive ends . . . This great source of power developed at the expense of the American people must remain their property through democratic control and be developed for their welfare," President Donald Henderson warned in a letter to FTA locals, calling attention to current House and Senate debates on control of atomic energy.

Henderson urged FTA locals to support those members of Congress who are fighting for a program of public civilian control of atomic energy patent rights, licenses and ore deposits.

At the same time he called for support to the "Acheson Report" from the State Department which calls for international control of atomic energy by the United Nations.

Henderson warned against attempts in the House to pass the May-Johnson bill, and in the Senate to pass the Vandenberg amendment, both of which would retain military control of atomic energy and its development.

Secy. of Commerce Henry A. Wallace called the type of control advocated by the brass hat military big-shots "the first step toward fascism" in the United States.



Local 87 negotiating committee following settlement of their first contract at the Gibbs-Booth canneries in Baltimore, Md. Seated (l. to r.) Grace Franklin, Frederick Tibbs, Ruth Valentine, Ethel Haynes, Chappelle Hudson and Joseph Kehs. Phoning is International Organizer Harold Kotzker.

"THEY'LL NEVER DO IT, OR WILL THEY?"

Hoover Nettled; Needling Does It

Herbert Hoover, the humanitarian who let millions starve in 1918 and 1932 because it's better that way for free enterprise, doesn't take kindly to questioning.

When he landed from his recent airplane jaunt around the world, a reporter in San Francisco offered him an apple. Hoover backed away with a sickly grin.

Then he flew on to the White House in Washington, and after he posed cozily with Truman, he had a press conference. At the press conference there were, as is customary, a number of reporters. A few of them asked a question or two.

What did he think about rationing? Was the food crisis as bad as people said it was? What did he think about Russia? What did he think about criticism of his trip by people here at home? (This last was by a labor reporter, who'd read FTA's blast at Hoover.)

To all these questions Hoover replied shortly, waspishly and disagreeably—and also with something less than complete candor.

On rationing and Russia he didn't want to comment, he said—and then proceeded to say rationing wasn't necessary and to claim that Russia was holding back food.

He dealt with both subjects at great length, particularly on the question of whether or not the Soviet Union hoards food. (She just sent 500,000 tons of wheat to France.). No, he wasn't interested in international politics or in domestic squabbles—only about 45 minutes worth on each of the two issues.

Washington is a great city for double talk. Veteran reporters, who become dulled to it after years of listening, were amazed at the amount the ex-President could produce. Then, being veteran reporters for reactionary newspapers, they went to their offices and wrote glowing stories about the humanitarianism of Mr. Hoover.

The cold-eyed little man, however, had no answer to the labor reporter's question about criticism of his trip. All our friend got for that was a dirty look and a snort. Apparently the great man's temper doesn't permit him to answer such questions.

* * *

Here's a nice little hunger-note from one of our most profitable daily newspapers, the New York World-Telegram. Says the society column of a few weeks ago:

". . . Mrs. Charles Sweeney, pinning her orchids on the wall of the St. Regis Maisonette before sitting down at her table. 'They bother me while I'm eating,' explained the former Margaret Whigham, one of London's noted beauties."

Can't Feed Less You Come t'Table

(Reprinted from Local 15's newspaper, the FTA Vanguard)

When the union calls a meetin'
It's the same as time for eatin',
When Maw calls you at the gate
You just don't want to wait.

Her sweet potatoes' steam
Frosts the platter's gleam
And the smell of bread and meat
Hits you with the oven heat.

Now it's as close as that to you
The thing this union aims to do,
But no more than Maw was able,
Can't feed you 'less you come to table.

Unless we meet as unions do
I can't help myself, nor can you
We never wasted our mother's food,
What the union's got is just as good.

Our meetings are the union's life,
They decide for all, children and wife.
Our meetings are the union's power,
Through them strength grows like a flower.

CORRECTION: Piece rates for hand-made cigars at the Webster Cigar Company in Detroit were raised $1 per 1,000 for 13 classifications and $1.25 for two classifications over the rates previously paid. An error in the May 15 issue of the News made it appear that piece rates were increased to $1 and $1.25 per thousand.

Murray Blasts At 'Red Purge' Talk

Blasting directly at lying newspaper accounts of a supposed "red purge" in the CIO, President Philip Murray this week delivered one of the most outspoken speeches yet heard on the subject of attempts to divide and disrupt the labor movement through red-baiting.

The speech, made as a report to the United Steelworkers convention meeting in Atlantic City, was unanimously adopted as USA-CIO policy by the union's 2,600 delegates.

Because of its importance to the entire labor movement, the FTA News here reprints CIO President Murray's statement to the United Steelworkers of America:

There is one matter on which I wish to dwell with some emphasis right at the start of this convention. I did so because it is my strong desire that our discussions may be such that we may emerge from this convention firm, strong and united, moving forward shoulder to shoulder in the ever-growing strength of our organization.

The statement which I shall now make is being submitted on behalf of the international officers and executive board of the United Steel Workers of America.

Basic Principles

Let me attempt to restate right now certain basic principles of our organization on which I am sure there can be no disagreement. There are principles on which there never has been any disagreement in our ranks.

Ours is a democratic organization. It is run by its members and for its members. We ask no man his national origin, his color, his religion or his beliefs. It is enough for us that he is a steel worker and that he believes in trade unionism.

I repeat—we are run solely by our membership. This union will not tolerate efforts by outsiders—individuals, organizations or groups—whether they be Communist, Socialist or any other group, to infiltrate, dictate or meddle in our affairs.

I do not direct that remark to any one person or group. I have in mind any attempt by any force outside our own membership to interfere in the functioning of our union. At the same time, however, we will not permit any limitation on the free and democratic right of full discussion of trade union problems in our own ranks.

Right to Choose

We must not and do not seek interference with the free and democratic right of each member to practice such religion as he chooses, harbor such views as he chooses, in his private life as a citizen.

Our union has not been and will not be an instrument of repression. It is a vehicle for economic and social progress.

Why do I find it necessary at this time to repeat these basic truths?

Hits Newspaper Liars

Ever since the CIO was founded there have been wishful thinkers, seeking its destruction, who have gone to the gossip columns, the rumor mongers, the purveyors of half-truths and fictions, with tales of division in our ranks, of purges and splits and factions and conflicts.

The volume and intensity of these emissions have risen and fallen from year to year, from month to month, and even from day to day, like the tides of the ocean.

Rebukes 'Scandal-Seekers'

Periodically I have found it necessary to redirect the attention of these scandal-seekers—and of our own members—to the clear principles of the constitution of CIO and of such affiliates as this mighty organization of steel workers.

We are an organization of workers gathered together for collective bargaining and for the advancement of our well-being in sound and wholesome American ways. We have no ulterior or subversive aims and we will not tolerate any attempts to divert our activities into such channels.

Our constitution provides democratic and orderly controls to assure adherence to the policies of our organization. That is clear and unmistakable to any individual or group with any contrary notions.

The United Steel Workers of America is a truly American institution, devoted to sound and constructive American objectives. We have only contempt and indignation for those who dare to impugn our patriotism and our Americanism. We give them the direct lie.

Our concrete policies are based upon the cherished principles of our historic Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America and true Americanism.

Opposes 'Purges'

As a democratic institution, we engage in no purges, no witch hunts. We do not dictate a man's thoughts or beliefs. Most important of all, we do not permit ourselves to be stampeded into courses of action which create division among our members and sow the disunity which is sought by those false prophets and hypocritical advisors from without who mean us no good.

I have spoken frankly. I have spoken bluntly. I have minced no words, because it is my sincere hope and desire that with the atmosphere thus cleared, this subject may be regarded as settled and set aside for the remainder of this convention.

Our aims and our principles are clear. We have many important problems of organization, wage and contract policy, legislation and national developments to which we must address our full attention in complete unity.

CIO maritime unions representing 500,000 U. S. marine and waterfront workers met in San Francisco and decided to join forces in one new overall organization. Strike is set for June 15, will be first united strike in maritime history. Shown are Harry Bridges, Longshoremen; Joe Curran, Maritime Union; Eugene Burke, Marine Cooks and Stewards and Joe Selly, Communications Assn.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP by Yomen

"SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME TO VOTE AGAINST."

Leadership Training

Grass Roots Unionism

By Connie Anderson, Education Director

Most companies will fight tooth and nail to prevent the union from establishing a strong steward system. Why? Because they know that the roots of a solid union are in the departments, with the workers organized solidly behind the steward.

It is the job of the steward to establish the leadership of the union in his department, to unionize it, so that all grievances and problems of the workers come to him. That is the only way to freedom from company domination so that grievances will be settled and good conditions built in the department.

Rests On Steward

This job of unionization rests on the shoulders of the steward, with the active support of the best union people in the department. Here are a few points for a steward to work at in developing a militant, united union department:

Consider every grievance carefully. Tal' fully and sympathetically with the worker. Never cut him off short.

If the grievance is not justified, if in the opinion of the steward it cannot be won, explain this fully to the worker, and also tell him where he can appeal that decision. In some locals, appeals go to the executive board, in others to the chief steward, grievance committee or steward council. The steward should go out of his way to bring the worker to the next higher body or person for his appeal. Every local should allow final appeal to the membership meeting.

Understanding Democracy

In this way, no worker can harbor a grievance against an individual steward—and he will gain an understanding of union democracy. It is wise for the union to use this democratic safety valve of appeal, to correct any mistakes the steward may make.

If the grievance is justified, the steward takes it up as soon as humanly possible, and brings the worker with him. Two points must b watched here.

The steward must not act until he is sure of the facts, even at the expense of delay, in taking up the grievance.

If the worker is new to unionism, the steward makes sure he understands the grievance procedure. The worker should understand that he must stick to the facts he told the steward, and not fold under the effort his foreman may make to have him change his story. Any sense of fear must be taken out of the worker by letting him know that the union stands solidly behind him.

What does a steward do about "nuisance" grievances—ones that seem petty? He never lets the worker feel that he, the steward is annoyed. He helps get the condition corrected.

Int. Rep. Jack Montgomery tells a story of a "nuisance" grievance. Several years ago, Jack was swamped with work in his department and was also serving on the Negotiating Committee of his local. As he was rushing to a meeting, a worker came to him, burned up because at a certain time each day sweepings from the floor above fell on his head.

As things were in that plant, the worker could have gone upstairs and plugged up the hole through which the dirt was falling. But Jack, as rushed as he was, did not tell the worker this, nor did he bawl him out for bothering him with a "nuisance" grievance. He had the hole plugged up. The worker was a loyal union man from then on.

A good steward does not sit back and wait for workers to bring grievances. He keeps his eyes peeled for poor conditions in the department. He takes action to improve conditions, even if no worker brought the matter up as a grievance.

If difficult problems or dissension arise, the steward should call a department meeting, in the union hall, or, in some cases, a quick meeting during lunch hour in the plant, or even right outside the plant as soon as the shift is over.

LOOKING FORWARD

How Your $ Builds FTA

By HAROLD LANE, Secretary-Treasurer

At our last convention our delegates took a positive step to guarantee the future growth of the locals and the international by raising the minimum dues to $1.0 and making the international per capita tax 75c on each dues paying member. Since that time many other international unions have done likewise.

How is the money spent that is sent to this office as per capita tax? Are we getting our full value for every dollar? What are the locals doing with the money that remains in the local treasury?

These are some of the questions in the minds of the members, and in this column I want to discuss with you how the money which comes to this office is spent.

Our System

This international is one of the few unions using what is known as the apportionment system, whereby each dues payment is apportioned to various funds and various departments in order to carry on all the functions of the organization. Inasmuch as our union has always followed the policy of spending every available penny for new organizational work, it naturally follows that the bulk of the per capita received in this office is spent on organizing. There are two additional positive factors which are a result of using the apportionment system.

1. Under normal circumstances it keeps the union on an even keel financially and helps it operate within its income.

2. Continued growth in dues paying members provides for expansion of existing departments and the addition of new ones which may prove necessary.

I strongly urge that local unions follow the same policy used by the international in the handling of finances.

The per capita is apportioned as follows:

Main Job — Organize

Bearing in mind that our main responsibility is to organize the unorganized, we have established an organizing fund and all initiation fees received from local unions are put in total into the organizing fund.

We must realize that initian fees are only paid once and are not regular income in the same sense as per capita payments as far as the national office is concerned and dues payments as far as the local unions are concerned. The bulk of the income received by the local union and by the international office is from dues payments and naturally would provide the bulk of working capital for either the international or the local union.

All of the officers and members of this union must be perfectly clear on the fact that although 75c comes to this office as international per capita, actually only 55c of this money is used for either organizational work or operating expenses of the national office and departments.

Where It Goes

To clarify this statement, I want to point out that five cents of each 75c is paid to the CIO as per capita tax, five cents is by constitutional provision placed in a reserve fund and 10c is returned to Regional Councils to help maintain this secondary and important structure of the international union.

So, when I point out that we only have 55c to work with, this is not only true but is actually less than the amount a local union has to operate with.

Out of the 75c per capita 35c or approximately two-thirds of the 55c with which we have to work is placed in the organizing fund and is used exclusively for that purpose.

Now, it would be an ideal situation if the total amount of this fund was used exclusively for new organizational work and the establishment of new local unions, thereby strengthening the international union and the locals and putting us in a better bargaining position with employers.

Much Spent On Servicing

Inasmuch as this fund is used exclusively to pay the salary and expenses of organizers, I am not in a position to estimate in dollars and cents what portion is actually spent on servicing local unions—but I believe a conservative estimate of the time organizers spend in servicing local unions would run over 50%.

You should get clear in your minds that this is just not the problem of the national office. This is the problem of every member and officer in every local union. We must work towards the aim of freeing international organizers from so much servicing and enable them to spend their time on new organizing.

There are two important things that can be done to accomplish this objective:

Two Factors

First is the training of shop stewards and committeemen and women through classes in the local and attendance of FTA Training Schools, so that the stewards and committeemen and women can handle 90% of their own grievances and problems in their local union.

The other important factor and which is being done in many, many locals, facing the fact that in present day labor relations, it is almost imperative that each local union have a full-time, trained business manager or fulltime functionary to properly handle the affairs of the local union. This man should not only handle the affairs of the local union, but carry on organizational work in the area to build the local union and be able to work in cooperation with regional and international organizers on joint organizing programs.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

Clinching A Pay Raise

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

The sad experience of several FTA locals with the new government wage stabilization policy shows how important it is for negotiating committees to understand the present restrictions on wage increases. Understanding the new rules may make a big difference in the amount of wage increase the workers in your plant actually get.

There are three main points to be clear about as to what wage increases have to be approved by the Wage Stabilization Board (WSB), the agency which administers wage controls:

First, wage increases do not have to be approved by the Board at all, unless the employer plans to use them as grounds for a price rise request. If the union can get the company to agree not to make wage increases a basis for seeking higher price ceilings from OPA, then you do not have to get government approval for the raise.

Keep Prices Out

Union bargaining committees should make every effort to exclude the price question in negotiating wage increases. If you do so, the wage increase can be paid at once without having to worry about Government approval.

Second, an employer can put a wage increase into effect immediately without approval from the WSB, without prejudicing his right to seek higher prices. All he has to do is file a notice (Form 9) with the WSB stating that he has given the raise. Filing this notice entitles him to go to the government at any time in the future to get ceilings raised.

Negotiating committees should try to get companies which raise the price question to agree to follow this procedure, since it permits wage increases to be put into effect at once.

No Increase Illegal

Third, and most important, NO WAGE INCREASE IS ILLEGAL; no matter how big the increase, and regardless of whether or not it has been approved by WSB. Even if the Board disapproves the raise entirely, the company can still pay it.

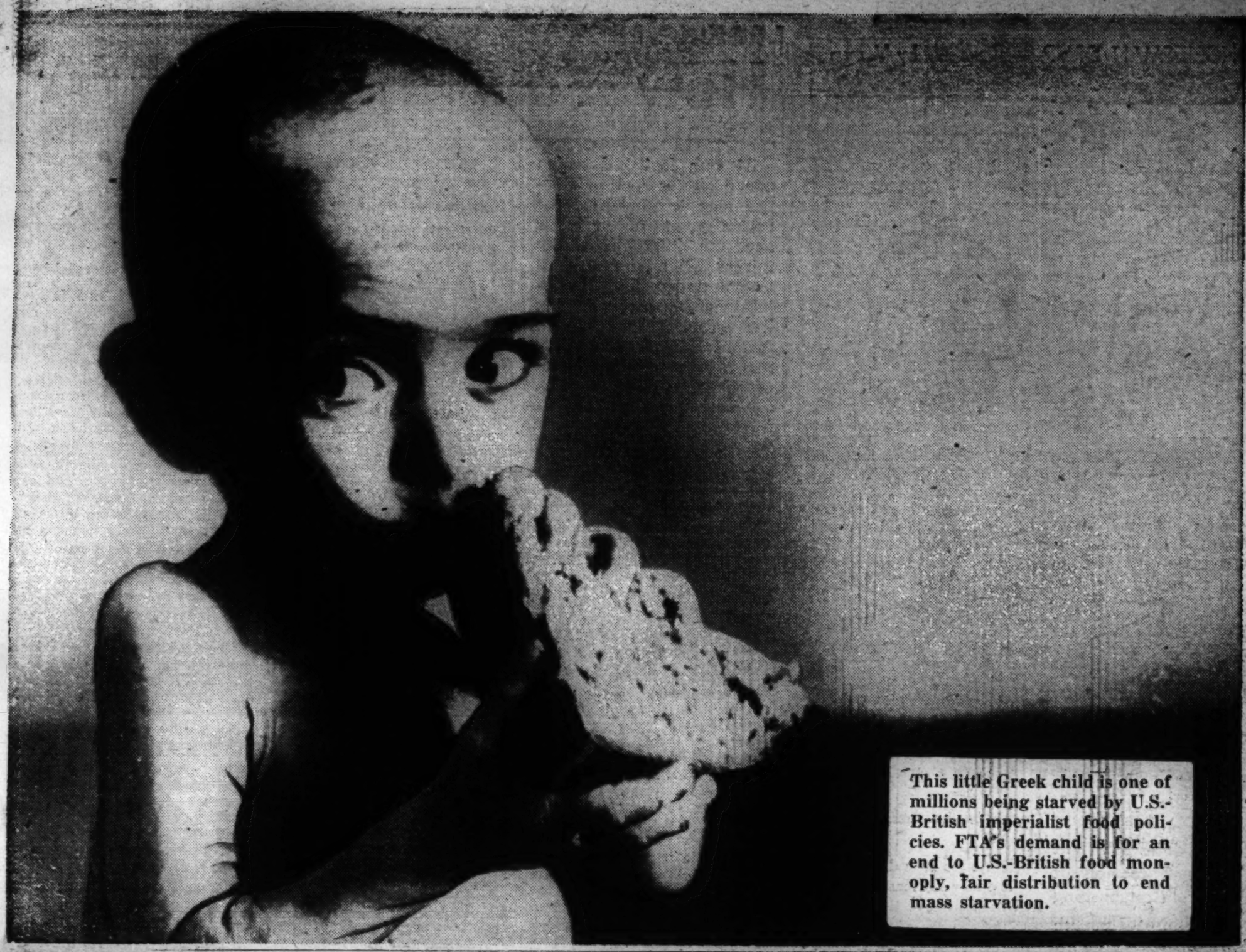
All that disapproval of a wage increase by WSB means is that the company cannot use the increase as a basis for trying to get higher prices from OPA. But —to repeat—it is still entirely legal and proper for the company to pay the raise.

The rulings WSB issues when it disapproves an increase contain the following language which makes this perfectly clear:

"A wage increase which is not approved is nevertheless lawful and may be effected or continued in effect notwithstanding lack of Board approval. Lack of approval of the wage increase means, however, that the increase may not be used, in whole or in part, as a basis for price relief or for increasing cost to the Government."

In view of these rules, it is of the utmost importance that local unions should NOT agree to wage increases which are contingent on approval by WSB. Wage agreements should be phrased so that the full amount of the increase agreed upon will go into effect regardless of how the Board rules upon it.

(To be continued)



This little Greek child is one of millions being starved by U.S.-British imperialist food policies. FTA's demand is for an end to U.S.-British food monoply, fair distribution to end mass starvation.

Jim Crow Keeps Wages Low

Discrimination against Negroes, labor-baiting, anti-Semitism, any form of persecution of any minority all have the same purpose — to keep wages down and keep the boss's profits up.
How this works on a world-wide as well as a domestic scale is discussed in the speech of President Henderson at the Natl. Negro Congress meeting May 30 in Detroit. Here are excerpts from his speech.

Our union has always fought discrimination wherever we have found it. Indeed, we owe our success to the fact that our union does not tolerate discrimination, that it fights equally hard for white and Negro alike, as it fights for men and women workers and for workers of all national origins.

Of course, there can be no other principle for the working class—if it wants to advance its own interests and the interests of all the people. The bosses know this well. That is why they promote discrimination, why they created jim crow in the first place, and why they try to create disunity even where it does not exist.

Disunity, whether based on a phoney racism or on any other disruptive device, always pays off—for the exploiter. It pays off in cash—in lower wages and lower living conditions.

Discrimination enables the boss to squeeze a bit more out of all workers, and a great deal more out of the minority against which it is especially aimed.

The members of our union know this. They know that when Walter Campbell, an FTA worker on strike in Little Rock was murdered by a scab, he was killed to help break the strike and perpetuate starvation wages at the Southern Cotton Oil Company. They see further that the murderer—a scab—is set free and two other workers, both strikers and both members of FTA, are given savage sentences under the so-called Arkansas "anti-violence" law.

Discrimination against any minority has an economic and a political motive. In this country, reactionary northern Republicans in Congress sign petitions for repeal of the polltax and then let reactionary Southern Democrats filibuster the bill back into its pigeonhole. They go through the same process with the FEPC—and the payoff comes when both gang up against labor on the Case bill, against labor and all the people on price control and a dozen other issues.

And in the White House, the man who succeeded Franklin Roosevelt goes through the same motions, with the same results. Yes, the Administration is for FEPC and polltax repeal—except for an occasional slip of the tongue—and for a lot of other good things, but somehow the leadership is not exerted up on Capitol Hill to bring them to pass. The reactionary coalition seems to be able to frustrate the proclaimed will of the White House with monotonous regularity.

But the evils of discrimination are not confined to domestic situations, any more than they are confined to one section of the nation. The reactionary political forces that try to drive down our wages here are also at work on a world scale.

They have their direct representatives in the United States delegation to the United Nations Organization—starting with the polltax politician James F. Byrnes, our Secretary of State. They have Tom Connally, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They have Edward Stettinius, the good-looking young man who comes to us and to the world directly from U. S. Steel and Morgan and Company.

What does this mean to the people of the world, especially to the colonial and semi-colonial peoples that make up the majority of the world's population?

It means that the voice of the United States is today on the side of colonial oppression. It means that the weight of the United States is today being thrown against the democratic aspirations of the peoples of Europe and Asia who fought and died to defeat Nazi and Japanese fascism.

It means that the weight of the United States is being thrown against the struggles of the peoples of India, Africa, Asia and other parts of the world for freedom from British imperialism, with the threat of American imperialism looming over them.

It means that the military and economic strength of the United States is used in a war of threats and provocations directed at the Soviet Union, the country where colonial or racial oppression does not exist.

These men—and the forces behind them—are today busily promoting another war. They are preparing to let loose the full horror of the atomic bomb and the V-2 rocket on all who balk at their domination.

And they are constantly intriguing to rehabilitate their colleagues in Germany and Japan for whatever aid they can render in crushing democracy in Europe and Asia, and for another attempt to destroy the Soviet Union.

Back of Nazi imperialism was German big business. Back of American imperialism is American big business. Hitler started in a small way. So do the would-be Hitlers of this country.

Now, what must we do to stop them?

We must organize labor unions. We must build strong labor unions in every industry, on the basis of equal treatment and equal opportunity for all.

We must organize not only the South but every part of the country where unions do not exist. We must build them stronger wherever they need strengthening today.

We must undertake political action on a scale far exceeding that of 1944. We must see to it that we develop independent political action, tied to no party but to issues that concern the workers and all the people.

We have to realize that domestic and foreign policies of the United States equally reflect the political forces in control of Congress and the administration.

I believe we are learning these lessons. The victories of the CIO, the early successes in the primaries in the South, the wage gains the workers have made, all point this way.

As we carry these successes forward, we will then truly give the death-blow to jim-crow—and to every other attack on human freedom.